



U.S. Department of Justice

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MEDIA RELEASE

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**BROOKLYN, NEW YORK MAN PLEADS GUILTY
TO BANK FRAUD SCHEME OF WALPOLE SAVINGS BANK**

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE: United States Attorney Tom Colantuono, U.S. Postal Inspector in Charge of the Boston Field Office Peter Zegarac, and Keene Police Chief Arthur Walker, announce that Felix Levon James, age 23, of Brooklyn, NY, pleaded guilty to a one count indictment charging him with bank fraud in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1344 and 2. James was charged with engaging in a scheme by which 26 one thousand dollar counterfeit money orders were deposited into a private account at the Keene branch of the Walpole Savings Bank. James and others used the falsely inflated balance of the account to withdraw money in amounts that exceeded the actual balance of the account.

Sentencing is scheduled for April 20, 2005 before Judge Joseph A. DiClerico, Jr. The penalties for the aforementioned charge are a maximum 30 year term of imprisonment, a term of not more than five years of supervised release, a maximum \$1,000,000.00 fine, and a \$100.00 mandatory special assessment.

U.S. Attorney Tom Colantuono praised the Keene Police and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service for their work on the case and stated: "Financial fraud adds considerable costs to society. Those who commit such frauds must be prosecuted as punishment for their crimes and as a deterrent to those who may commit such crimes. This office will work with local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies to combat financial fraud. As this case demonstrates, our joint efforts will lead to successful prosecution of these frauds."

The investigation was conducted by the U.S. Postal Service in Boston and the Keene Police Department. This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Mark Irish.